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BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Chief Public Health Inspector,
ON THE WORK OF THE
Public Health Services.

1965

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. H. SHORE, M.D., D.T.M. and H., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. H. MANN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D. PICKERING, M.A.P.H.I.

E. K. PHIPPS, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Clerk:

E. MARKLEW.

Assistant Clerk:

L. MYATT (until October, 1965).

Y. ALLPORT (from November, 1965).

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

R. HALLIDAY (until September, 1965).

C. SOAMES (from October, 1965).

Handyman/Rodent Operative:

S. WRIGHT.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1965

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the year 1965.

In the Brownhills Urban District in 1965 the corrected live birth rate was 20.02 per 1,000 population. This was 0.69 lower than that for 1964. It compares with 18.0 for England and Wales. The corrected death rate was 12.43 per 1,000 population, which was 0.76 lower than that for 1964. This compares with 11.5 for England and Wales. The live births registered exceeded deaths by 454.

The infant mortality rate of 15.8 per 1,000 live births was 8.21 lower than that for 1964. This compares with 19.0 for England and Wales, which is the lowest ever recorded in this country. The Brownhills Urban District infant mortality rate compares favourably with this.

The estimated total population, as at 30th June, was 29,200 which was 500 greater than the estimate for 1964 and represents an increase of 2,806 (10.6%) compared with the census population, 1961. Assuming that this increase is equally shared by all wards, the respective ward populations would be as follows:—

Central ..	9,121
Norton Canes ..	7,331
Shelfield and	
High Heath ..	5,370
Walsall Wood ..	7,370

An attempt has been made to establish ward death rates for a number of diseases (cancer, cerebro-vascular disease, coronary disease and chronic bronchitis). The following statistics are only tentative because they are based on estimated ward populations.

Death rates for certain selected diseases (per 1,000 of the ward population) :— (District rate for comparison).

	Central	Walsall Wood	Norton Canes	Shelfield and High Heath	District rate
All cancer ..	1.5	1.35	1.6	1.86	1.5
Chronic bronchitis ..	0.65	0.67	0.68	0.56	0.65
Coronary disease ..	1.6	2.3	0.82	2.0	1.7
Cerebro-vascular disease	0.55	1.5	0.95	1.3	1.0

The rates for the Central ward and Norton Canes are average, but in Walsall Wood and Shelfield/High Heath the rates for Coronary Disease and Cerebro-Vascular Disease appear to be above the normal.

Deaths from all cancer remained unaltered at 46, but deaths from cancer of the lung dropped from 12 to 5 (all male). Deaths from Coronary Disease have shown a marked increase (from 32 in 1964 to 49 in 1965). The female death rate from this disease is approximately half of the male death rate. In the past 10 years 222 men and 121 women have died from Coronary Disease, which has now the highest single death rate in the district.

With regard to infectious diseases, a major outbreak of Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne) occurred in 1965. Notified cases numbered 189. The outbreak stretched over a period of several months and involved the department in heavy additional work. Stringent checking of contacts and exclusion from school of affected pupils finally brought it under control. No deaths occurred.

The "Meals-on-Wheels" service was seriously hampered by organisational trouble following the departure of the local meals organiser. It is now recovering under a new organiser. During the year 3,357 meals were served.

There has been continuous contact with the County Welfare Officer with regard to the selection of suitable applicants for welfare accommodation. Much time has been spent with applicants for rehousing claiming medical priority and examinations of manual workers for the Council's Sickness Pay Scheme.

Generally the state of the public health in the Brownhills urban district is very encouraging with an increasing population and an infant mortality rate comparing favourably with that for England and Wales.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council for their great support and interest. I also wish to thank my fellow Chief Officers for their valuable advice, particularly the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Mann. Lastly I want all the staff of the Health Department to know how much I appreciate their co-operation.

Your obedient servant,
H. SHORE, *Medical Officer of Health.*

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Brownhills Urban District is in the southern half of the County of Staffordshire on the fringe of the Birmingham conurbation. The altitude of the district varies from 420 feet to 600 feet above sea level.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There is still a decline in the part mining plays in the employment pattern of the district. This decline is being offset by the continual growth of new industries into the district.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £759,159. The sum represented by a penny rate is £3,002.

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 29,200 (mid year). The density of population is 4.6 per acre. The population according to the 1961 census was 26,394, which showed an increase of 4,550 over the 1951 census.

1961 CENSUS—WARD POPULATIONS

(a) General

Age	Wards							
	Central		Norton Canes		Shelfield & High Heath		Walsall Wood	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	374	370	390	350	249	245	332	314
5—	346	291	275	256	192	190	342	294
10—	324	363	252	213	210	180	290	304
15—	322	278	225	216	155	157	251	248
20—	279	283	247	280	169	199	236	225
25—	307	319	361	320	230	220	213	211
30—	307	267	285	234	219	204	264	269
35—	323	318	219	234	210	191	250	234
40—	252	285	197	200	160	149	235	228
45—	273	277	206	182	154	153	224	207
50—	265	244	189	197	135	137	185	179
55—	240	208	178	156	103	103	185	160
60—	190	211	127	137	98	101	128	135
65—	127	178	89	111	54	72	93	134
70—	113	109	71	74	50	61	55	75
75—	50	78	37	45	27	34	35	62
80—	31	45	31	44	18	27	28	38
	4,123	4,124	3,379	3,249	2,433	2,423	3,346	3,317
	8,247		6,628		4,856		6,663	

(b) Persons of retirement age and under 15 years

Central		Norton Canes		Wards		Walsall Wood		Total	% of urban dist. pop.
				Shelfield & High Heath					
No.	% of ward pop.	No.	% of ward pop.	No.	% of ward pop.	No.	% of ward pop.		
(i) Retirement age :									
942	11.42	639	9.64	444	9.14	655	9.83	2,680	9.34
(ii) Under 15 years :									
2068	25.08	1736	26.19	1266	26.07	1876	28.16	6,946	25.55
(c) Persons aged 65 years and over :									
731	8.9	502	7.6	343	7.0	520	7.8	2,096	7.3
(321 M)		(228 M)		(149 M)		(211 M)			
(410 F)		(274 F)		(194 F)		(309 F)			

HOUSING

The following is a summary of houses built during 1965 :—

By private enterprise	153
Permanent houses by the local authority	304
By local authority for sale to the public	—

BIRTHS, 1965

Live births :—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	344	331	675
Illegitimate	7	14	21
			<u>696</u>

The number of illegitimate live births was 3.0% of the total live births.

	Male	Female	Total
Still births :—			
Legitimate	5	11	16
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			<u>16</u>

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 23.83 per thousand of the population. The area comparability factor for births is 0.84 and this gives a corrected birth rate of 20.02.

Still births numbered 16. This gives a still birth rate of 0.55 per thousand of the population, or a still birth rate of 22.47 per thousand total births (live and still). The total (live and still births) was 712.

DEATHS, 1965

Deaths numbered 242. 136 males and 106 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 8.29 per thousand of the population and a corrected death rate of 12.43 per thousand (the area comparability factor is 1.50).

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	6	9
" " lung, bronchus	5	—	5
" " breast	—	6	6
" " uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	8	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	—	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	17	30
Coronary disease, angina	32	17	49
Hypertension with heart disease	3	3	6
Other heart disease	5	16	21
Other circulatory disease	4	5	9
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	5	6	11
Bronchitis	18	1	19
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	7	17
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	7	1	8
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	136	106	242

DEATHS—AGE DISTRIBUTION

Under 1 yr.	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	Total
11	2	—	6	7	9	20	43	70	74	242

59.5% of the deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

Deaths from Cancer and Bronchitis :—

	1963	1964	1965
All cancer	41 (21 m., 20 f.)	46 (27 m., 19 f.)	46 (23m., 23 f.)
Cancer of lung ..	7 (6 m., 1 f.)	12 (all males)	5 (all males)
Leukaemia ..	2 (1 m., 1 f.)	1 (male)	2 (1 m., 1 f.)
Bronchitis	17	21	19

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung, 1956-1965 :—

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1956 .. ..	..	..	..	4	—	4
1957 .. ..	..	..	..	4	—	4
1958 .. ..	..	..	..	7	—	7
1959 .. ..	..	..	..	14	2	16
1960 .. ..	..	..	..	4	3	7
1961 .. ..	..	..	..	13	—	13
1962 .. ..	..	..	..	10	—	10
1963 .. ..	..	..	..	6	1	7
1964 .. ..	..	..	..	12	—	12
1965 .. ..	..	..	..	5	—	5
Total 1956-1965 ..	..			79	6	85

Heart disease and vascular lesions still contribute most to the death rate (47.5% of all deaths).

Deaths from Coronary Disease, 1956-1965 :—

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1956 .. ..	..	..	..	10	4	14
1957 .. ..	..	..	..	13	13	26
1958 .. ..	..	..	..	19	10	29
1959 .. ..	..	..	..	15	11	26
1960 .. ..	..	..	..	20	17	37
1961 .. ..	..	..	..	19	12	31
1962 .. ..	..	..	..	38	15	53
1963 .. ..	..	..	..	29	15	44
1964 .. ..	..	..	..	27	7	34
1965 .. ..	..	..	..	32	17	49
Totals 1956-1965 ..	..			222	121	343

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Cause	Under 1 week	1 week to 1 month	Months							Total
			1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	9-	
Prematurity	2	1								3
Birth injuries ..	1									1
Congenital malformations ..	1							1		2
Anoxia	2									2
Pneumonia								1		1
Toxaemia		1								1

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age	11
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ..	15.8
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.8
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births	Nil

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	9
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	12.9

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one week of age	6
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	8.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	Nil

PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Total still births and deaths under 1 week of age ..	22
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	30.9

The table below compares the main rates for Brownhills Urban District, and England and Wales :—

Brownhills U.D.				England and Wales
Birth rate	20.02	(per 1,000 pop.)		18.0
Still birth rate	22.47	(per 1,000 total births (live and still)).		16.3
Death rate	12.43	(per 1,000 pop.)		11.5
Infant Mortality Rate ..	15.8	(per 1,000 live births)		19.0

The following table compares the main rates in the district for 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965 :—

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Birth rate ..	19.32	20.18	20.84	20.71	20.02
Still birth rate	20.87	19.32	18.12	20.74	22.47
Death rate	13.78	15.25	12.83	13.19	12.43
Infant Mortality rate ..	17.76	26.27	21.48	24.01	15.8
Neo-natal Mortality rate	14.20	22.98	15.75	15.53	12.9
Maternal Mortality rate	1.73	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Perinatal Mortality rate	31.20	40.25	33.61	34.57	30.9

INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

(Rates per 1,000 live births).

Year	Number	Rate	Year	Number	Rate
1951 ..	9 ..	27.8	1959 ..	9 ..	18.25
1952 ..	10 ..	29.7	1960 ..	8 ..	14.51
1953 ..	12 ..	33.1	1961 ..	10 ..	17.76
1954 ..	11 ..	30.4	1962 ..	16 ..	26.27
1955 ..	5 ..	15.1	1963 ..	15 ..	21.48
1956 ..	14 ..	37.2	1964 ..	17 ..	24.01
1957 ..	15 ..	35.0	1965 ..	11 ..	15.8
1958 ..	17 ..	32.6			

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Under 1 year	1—	5—	10—	15—	25 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ..		9	9	4		1	23
Whooping Cough ..	2	15	7	1			25
Measles	23	266	204	4	1	1	499
Pneumonia		1	1			4	6
Dysentery	5	39	86	21	7	31	189
Erysipelas						1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2						2
Food Poisoning ..		1		1			2

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The attack rates per thousand of the population in respect of certain infectious diseases are as follows :—

Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	..	0.00
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	0.78
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	0.79
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	0.03
Measles	..	..	..	..	17.08
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	0.20
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	0.06
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	6.44

With regard to Infectious Diseases this was a measles year.

Notifications numbered 449 against 151 in 1964.

No case of poliomyelitis occurred.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956-1965

Disease	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Measles	5	426	467	231	17	971	41	710	151	499
Whooping Cough	90	107	8	68	179	13	5	60	7	25
Scarlet Fever	17	23	55	37	38	14	23	41	6	23
Pneumonia	23	26	13	16	11	25	5	9	3	6
Erysipelas	1	3	2	5	1	3	2	4	—	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	1	4	6	3	2	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	181	—	—	34	17	—	16	—	1	189
Food Poisoning	20	—	—	1	2	2	19	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS IN 1965			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 —	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 —	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 —	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
35 —	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
45 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 —	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 —	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	1	1	2	1	2	—	—

The following table shows the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of each year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1956 ..	97	92	19	23	231
1957 ..	105	101	18	23	247
1958 ..	121	100	17	27	265
1959 ..	127	107	19	26	279
1960 ..	135	106	20	25	286
1961 ..	142	110	19	26	297
1962 ..	144	111	19	24	298
1963 ..	144	115	20	27	306
1964 ..	117	103	20	23	263
1965 ..	123	110	22	25	280

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Welfare, Maternity, School Health and Tuberculosis after-care services are under the control of the County Council. Within the general ambit of these services the appropriate clinics are held at places suitably accessible for the district.

The Home Help, Home Nursing and Ambulance services are also provided by the County Council.

HOSPITALS

General: Walsall General and Walsall Manor Hospitals.

Maternity: The district is mostly served by Lichfield and Walsall Maternity Hospitals and Ivy House Hospital, Cannock.

X-ray facilities: At Hospitals and Mass Radiography unit, Ambulance Station, Walsall.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Stafford branch of the Public Health Laboratory Services.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1965

*To the Chairman and members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

When this report is placed before you the Brownhills Urban District will have ceased to exist as a separate local authority. May I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the full and interested co-operation which has always been extended to my department. The Council has achieved much of which it can be justly proud and the results of its past efforts will be seen when the High Street, Brownhills development and the Chasewater project are completed. These are two examples of municipal enterprise of which any local authority can be proud and it is a great satisfaction to me to know that my department has played its small part in these projects.

It is pleasing to report that despite the pressure placed on the staff due to the dysentery epidemic, which has been reported by the Medical Officer of Health, 100% meat inspection has been maintained and the slum clearance programme has kept pace with the house building programme; although it is to be regretted that much routine work has had to be left and much urgent work postponed.

PART II—STAFF

As previously reported, there have been the inevitable changes of staff during the year under review. Mr. R. Halliday and Miss L. Myatt resigned in order to take up new appointments and were replaced by Mr. C. Soames and Miss Y. Allport.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. H. C. Perkins, Chief Public Health Inspector to Aldridge Urban District Council for his co-operation and assistance when the pressure of work on all members of the staff was almost intolerable due to the emergency measures needed to deal with the dysentery epidemic, to which I have previously referred. I feel sure that when the two departments are merged the same spirit of co-operation will be shown and the new department will be able to provide an efficient service to the public.

PART III—WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is controlled by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. There have been no cases of shortage of supply and the quality has been maintained.

Many of the Company's mains run through areas of the district affected by mining subsidence, and although the Council are not made aware of the repair works carried out, there is no doubt that the Company must maintain a constant vigilance. This Department took 179 samples from house taps, so that the Council in its turn, could be sure that the water supply was pure and wholesome.

R. H. Taylor, Esq., the Engineer-in-Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company has supplied the following information :—

- “ 1. The supply to the area was satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Urban District Council of Brownhills was derived from pumping stations outside the boundaries of the Authority. The pumping stations were examined regularly and frequently and, where treatment is installed, bacteriological examinations of the raw water were carried out.

During 1965, routine samples were examined from the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, from High Street, Clayhanger, and from the Waterman's house at Norton Canes. 15 samples from Brownhills, 15 from Clayhanger and 10 from Norton Canes were all satisfactory.

78 samples were examined from the Norton Canes area, of which 75 were free from coliform bacteria, of 78 samples examined from the Walsall Wood area, 77 were free from coliform bacteria.

The average chemical results for 1965 of the tap samples from Brownhills and Norton Canes were :—

Brownhills					Norton Canes				
pH	..	..	..	7.4					7.7
Alkalinity (CaCO ³)	..	..	..	116	parts per million				85
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	..	32.3	..	..	..	..	16.1
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	Trace	..	..	..	..	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	Trace	..	..	..	..	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	11.0	..	..	..	..	4.0
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	..	..	..	.12	..	..	..	..	.12
Temporary Hardness	..	..	..	112	..	..	..	..	79
Permanent Hardness	..	..	..	138	..	..	..	..	50
Total Hardness	..	..	..	250	..	..	..	..	129
Iron (Fe)	..	..	..	.01	..	..	..	..	Trace
Manganese (Mn)	..	..	..	Nil	..	..	..	..	Nil
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	..	..	..	Nil	..	..	..	..	Nil
Free Cl	..	..	..	Nil	..	..	..	..	.03
Fluorides (F)	..	..	..	.03	..	..	..	..	.07

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any of the tap samples examined.
4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying reservoirs. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains :—

(a) direct to the houses	..	..	..	..	9,748
(b) by means of standpipes	..	..	..	..	20
					9,768

The population is estimated by the Company at 3.24 persons per house."

PART IV—SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There are 34 pail closets and 20 privies in use in the district, and the majority of these are situate in the Norton Canes Ward. With the development of the new housing estates in the Norton Canes Ward it is to be hoped that provision will be made in the laying of the sewers for these pail closets and privies to be connected wherever possible.

TABLE I—SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails		Privies	
	To be converted	For H.A. action	To be converted	For H.A. action
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	9	4	—	—
Brownhills West	—	—	—	—
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	—
Shelfield and High Heath	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	4	—	—

TABLE II—SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	11	15
Brownhills West	7	3
Walsall Wood	3	2
Shelfield and High Heath	—	—
Brownhills	—	—
Totals	21	20

PART V—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- (1) Brownhills, Brownhills West, Clayhanger, Sandhills and Walsall Wood are sewered to the Green Lane Works, Walsall Wood. Over the last 11 years work has been systematically carried out with a view to modernisation and to the rectification of damage caused by mining subsidence. The new trunk sewers now in course of construction avoid the subsidence areas and should ensure that sewage reaches the works. The brook receiving the effluent has no great volume of flow and it is, therefore, essential that the effluent from the works reaches a high standard of purity.

Regular samples are taken of the effluent, and the brook course, above and below the point of discharge. Copies of the results

are forwarded to the Engineer and Surveyor. Unfortunately these samples results are only an indication of the unsatisfactory state one may expect to find the brook in farther down the course. It is, however, obvious that only the enlargement and re-construction of Walsall Wood sewage works will provide a permanent solution to this problem.

- (2) Norton Canes has its own sewerage system and disposal works constructed about 20 years ago. With the increasing re-development of this area it may well be found that an enlargement of the existing sewage works will be necessary to ensure adequate purification of the sewage discharged to these works.
- (3) The Shelfield and High Heath Areas are sewered to the Goscote works operated by the Goscote Joint Board. The Council makes a contribution towards the cost.
- (4) Watling Street, Brownhills, and the recent development in this area are sewered to a disposal plant operated by Lichfield Rural District Council. By far the greater volume of flow received at the works comes from this Urban District.
- (5) A colliery, café and three houses at Heath Hayes are sewered to a system controlled by Cannock Urban District Council.

PART VI—REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of refuse is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. Complaints received in the Health Department are transferred to that office for attention.

From a public health point of view a weekly collection should be the minimum to be aimed at.

Since the introduction of a system of controlled tipping at the tip at Clayhanger, very few complaints of nuisance have been received in contrast to the many complaints formerly received. The cost of providing covering material and instituting the controlled tipping system has been fully justified and no doubt will be instituted from the beginning, at all future tips, thus avoiding nuisance and making possible the reclamation of much valuable land.

The dustbin supply service operated by the Health Department has issued 759 dustbins during the year.

PART VII

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Total Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,269
Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	262
Houses inspected—Public Health Act, repairs..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	408
—Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,186
—Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
—Verminous or Dirty	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
—Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
—Subsidence Damage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
—Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Movable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	314
Meat Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	425
Other Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	356
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	314
New Dustbins delivered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	759
Ashpits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Water Closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Pails	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Privies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Cesspools, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Drains—new and/or tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
—existing and/or defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244
—cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142
Keeping of animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	406
Clean Air	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	122
Petroleum Storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Infectious Disease Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,735
Disinfections and Disinfestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	963
Samples—water, bacteriological	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	179
—chemical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
—faecal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,424
—Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices brought forward from 1964	..	..	..	..	..	75
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	77
Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	77
Informal Notices carried forward to 1966	..	..	..	..	..	75

FOOD HYGIENE

Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	66
Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	63

STATUTORY NOTICES

TABLE III

	Brought forward from 1964	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1966
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	—	1	—	1
Section 44, Public Health Act, 1936	—	2	1	1
Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936	—	1	1	—
Section 50, Public Health Act, 1936	—	1	—	1
Section 79, Public Health Act, 1936	—	1	1	—
Sections 92-93, Public Health Act, 1936	8	5	4	9
Section 17, Public Health Act, 1961	—	2	2	—
Section 26, Public Health Act, 1961	—	2	2	—
Totals	8	15	11	12

PART VIII—HOUSING

The Council have pursued their policy of dealing with houses in the slum clearance category as approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The difficulties met with by the builders, both in the supply of materials and labour, has resulted in a very erratic delivery of new houses and this fluctuation in the number of houses completed makes it most difficult for the department and unsettling for the people who have to live in condemned properties without any definite signs of a new house forthcoming. It is essential, therefore, that the slum clearance programme keeps pace with the production rate and that the rates should be related to the approved programme.

Individual Unfit houses

The Council made Demolition Orders or Closing Orders in respect of the following 30 houses :—

- 90, Watling Street, Brownhills.
- 97, Chase Road, Brownhills.
- 38 and 40, Brownhills Road, Brownhills.
- 89, 91 and 93, Hednesford Road, Brownhills.
- 199, The Wilkin, Brownhills.
- 43 and 45, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 13 and 15, Church Street, Clayhanger.
- 45, 47, 49, and 51, Church Road, Norton Canes.
- 56, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 215 and 217, Hednesford Road, Norton Canes.
- 161 and 163, Norton East Road, Norton Canes.
- 44, Norton East Road, Norton Canes.
- 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, Camden Street, Walsall Wood.

Clearance Areas

19 houses were dealt with by Clearance Area procedure :—

Clearance Area No. 84:

40-46, Lichfield Road,
Brownhills.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 85:

84-90, Pelsall Road, Brownhills.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 86:

174, 176 and 178, The Square,
Norton Canes.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 87:

180 and 182, Hednesford Road,
Norton Canes and 3-13, Burntwood
Road, Norton Canes.

Clearance Order.

The following is an analysis of the above work under the Housing Acts, along with the repair works carried out under the Public Health Act :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 136 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for that purpose | 1,594 |
| (2) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 49 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	88
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--|----|
| (a) | Proceedings under Section 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 :— | | |
| | (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | — |
| | (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice | — |
| | | (a) by Owners | — |
| | | (b) by local authority in default of owners | — |
| (b) | Proceedings under Public Health Act :— | | |
| | (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 77 |

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) by Owners	11
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	30
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	38
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(4) Undertakings accepted under Section 16(4) of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(d) Procedure under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses included in declared Clearance Areas	19
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of confirmed Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	63
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished on certificate of unfitness of Medical Officer of Health	24
4. Rehousing from unfit property :	
Families rehoused from Clearance Areas	26
Persons rehoused from Clearance Areas	84
Families rehoused from Demolition Orders, etc.	52
Persons rehoused from Demolition Orders, etc.	153

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary Grants

There were no applications for discretionary grants during the year.

(b) Standard Grants

There were six applications for standard grants, four being from owner/occupiers. Five of the applications were approved.

The Housing Act, 1964 gave powers to local authorities to compel owners of obsolescent but structurally sound houses to provide them with modern amenities and thus provide the tenants with comparable amenities provided in newly constructed dwellings. In December the Council declared Nos. 3—17 (odd), Camden Street, Walsall Wood to be "Improvement Area No. 1."

Certificates of Disrepair

There were no applications received for certificates of disrepair.

PART IX—FOOD HYGIENE

During the year 314 inspections were carried out of food shops. The equipment and fittings were generally satisfactory. Plans of the new shops being erected in the High Street development were examined and the structural work necessary for the premises to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, detailed, thus ensuring that when the premises are opened for business they will be in a satisfactory condition.

The mobile shop still presents difficulties of administration and it is to be hoped that the long awaited Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations will provide adequate powers to properly control the sale and handling of food in these vehicles.

Types of Food Premises :

Bakehouse	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	21
Wholesale Grocer	..	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream Sales	..	..	..	..	129
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	10
General Stores	..	..	..	..	189
Catering Establishments		..	..	..	11
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	33
Total					395

Ice Cream

129 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream.

Meat Inspection

Two private slaughterhouses hold current licences and are in regular use. The amount of slaughtering which takes place outside normal office hours means that some overtime working has been necessary to maintain 100% meat inspection service.

It will be noted that no tuberculosis was detected in cattle including calves, but pigs are still being infected, although the percentage is gradually being reduced.

During the year three cattle carcasses were found to be infected with cysticercosis and were submitted to treatment by refrigeration in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The charges made under the Meat Inspection Regulations amounted to £435 5s. 3d. for the year.

Other Foods Inspected

The following items of food have been surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:—

310 tins of Various Meats	..	..	..	599 lbs.	5 ozs.
375 tins of Various Vegetables	..	..	..	285 lbs.	1 oz.
159 tins of Various Fish	..	..	..	92 lbs.	12 ozs.
2 tins of Treacle	..	..	..	2 lbs.	10 ozs.
558 tins of Various Fruit	..	..	..	629 lbs.	1 oz.
3 tins of Pie Filling	..	..	..		15 ozs.
185 tins of Soup	..	..	..	140 lbs.	11 ozs.
65 tins of Meat Pudding	..	..	..	22 lbs.	8 ozs.
7 tins of Sago	..	..	..	3 lbs.	14 ozs.
19 tins of Rice	..	..	..	19 lbs.	0 ozs.
43 tins of Evaporated Milk	..	..	..	42 lbs.	11 ozs.
28 tins of Fruit Juices	..	..	..	28 lbs.	2 ozs.
48 tins of Strained Foods	..	..	..	18 lbs.	6 ozs.
4 tins of Baby Food	..	..	..	1 lbs.	2 ozs.
5 tins of Cream	..	..	..	1 lbs.	14 ozs.
Total	..	..	16 tons 3 qtrs.	5 lbs.	0 ozs.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken by his department:—

Details of Samples procured during 1965:—

Number of samples taken	..	..	90
Number of samples genuine	..	..	86
Number of samples Adulterated	..	..	4

Almond fairy Cakes
Apricot Wine

Butter (4)
Butter Ginger cake
Blended Vegetable Oil
Beans with Pork Sausage and
Tomato Sauce
Blackberries in Heavy Syrup
Breakfast Grill
Beef Noodle Soup
Blackcurrant Jam
Beef Sausage

Chicken with Vegetables
Chewy Fruits
Cheese Spread
Corned Beef
Clover Honey
Creamed Horseradish
Creamed Macaroni Milk Pudding

Desert Topping Mix

Eclairs with Real Cream

Fruit Sauce
Fish Paste—Sardines and Tomato
Fish Paste—Salmon and Shrimp

Gin (3)
Golden Wine
Grapefruit Juice with Added Sugar
Ginger Buttons
Grated Cheese

Honey Ginger Cakes

Instant Coffee
Ice Cream

Lard (2)
Liquorice Allsorts
Lancashire Rarebit

Malt Vinegar with Caramel
 Mint in Vinegar
 Mint Imperials
 Mixed Jellies
 Margarine
 Marmalade

Pares Layer Cake
 Pork Brawn
 Pork Sausage containing
 Preservatives (6)
 Pink Salmon (2)
 Pork Luncheon Meat
 Plain Flour
 Prunes in Syrup

Quick Butter Mix

Ruby Wine
 Rum (3)

Rennett Essence
 Red Cherries in light Syrup

Starch reduced Wheat Flakes
 Salad Cream with Lemon Juice
 Salted Peanuts
 Stewed Steak in Gravy
 Steak and Kidney Pudding
 Scotch Oats
 Sugar Free Lime Marmalade :
 Small Sild in edible Oil

Tea (3)
 Table Mustard
 Table Jelly

Vinegar
 Vegetable Shortening

Whisky (6)

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

14 B/D Stewed Steak in Gravy—Informal } Followed by formal sample
 10.8% deficient of meat } 23 B/D

23 B/D Stewed Steak in Gravy—Formal }
 10.0% deficient of meat. } Awaiting decision of Foods
 25 B/D Stewed Steak in Gravy } Standards Committee.
 13.5% deficient of meat. }

65 B/D Sugar Free Lime Marmalade—Informal }
 Does not comply with Labelling of Food Order. } Investigations Proceeding,

Milk Supplies

Results of samples of milk taken by the County Council are forwarded to this office for information :—

Type of Milk	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	34	—	34
Sterilised	—	21	—
T.T. Pasteurised (Homogenised) ..	6	—	6
T.T.C.I. Pasteurised ..	16	—	16

PART X—CLEAN AIR

It is most disappointing to report that no progress has been made in establishing additional smoke control areas and no smoke control programme has been submitted to the Ministry. The Council has not shown the foresight and enterprise in the cause of Clean Air which it has shown in other branches of Public Health.

It is perhaps significant that when the Solid Smokeless Fuel Federation organised an exhibition in the Smoke Control Area at High Heath, it was very well patronised and the public were most interested in the smokeless fuels available and were anxious to learn the techniques of burning these fuels efficiently. This shows a change in Public opinion from last year when as reported in the 1964 annual report the reaction of the public to a similar demonstration by the West Midland Gas Board was apathetic and showed little interest in the offer of help and advice. It is to be hoped that the new amalgamated Authority will proceed with an active programme of the establishment of smoke control areas and that the entire district will benefit from an environment in which all smoke emissions will be reduced to the absolute minimum.

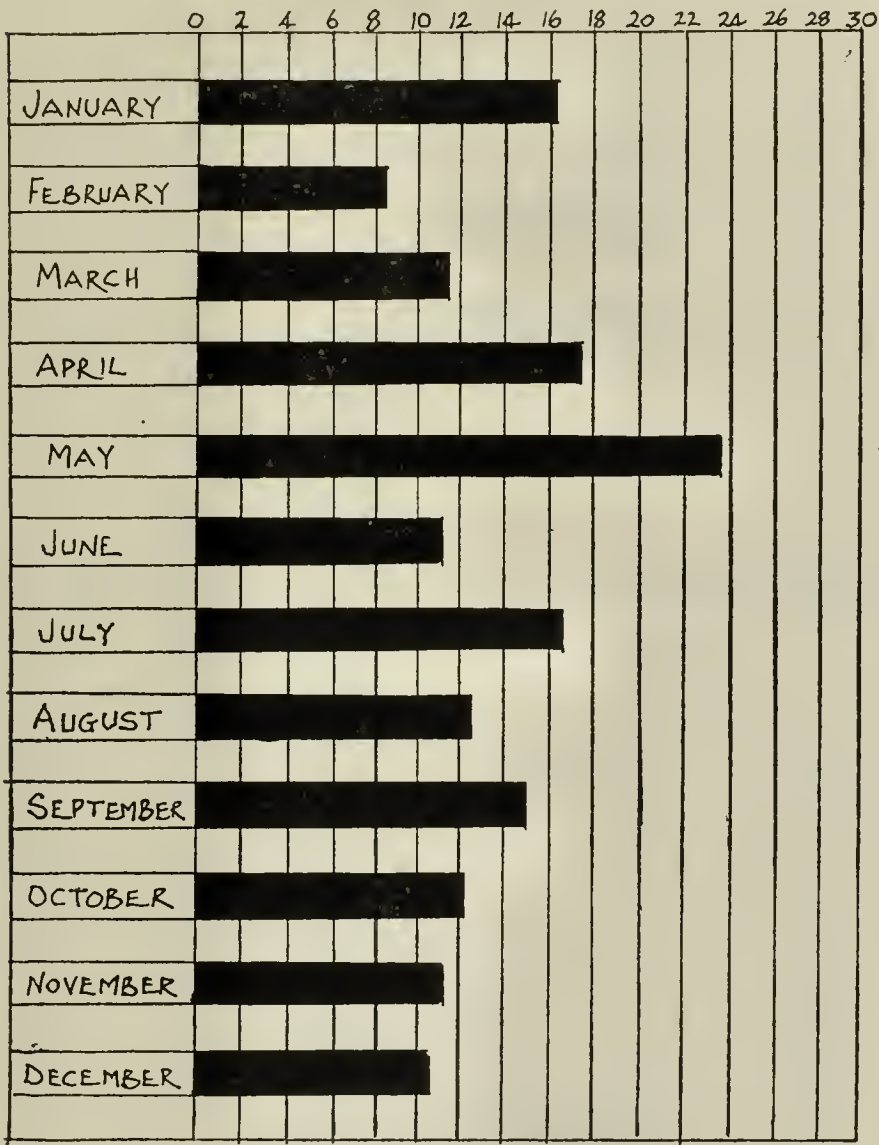
The swarf drying plant installed at an aluminium recovery plant has resulted in a reduction in black emissions from the main stack, but there has been no noticeable reduction in other emissions. This matter is still receiving the active attention of the Alkali Inspector, but at present there does not appear to be any rapid solution to a most difficult problem.

TABLE V
DEPOSIT GAUGES—RECORDS OF DEPOSITS—1965
Deposits in tons per square mile per month.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	12.20	15.01	21.03
February	7.56	8.21	8.92
March	11.90	9.14	13.99
April	17.20	14.67	21.64
May	14.01	28.93	27.81
June	12.98	9.44	*
July	13.15	17.54	18.77
August	11.70	12.04	14.06
September	8.91	12.04	23.80
October	8.62	12.98	14.51
November	11.87	10.84	*
December	8.75	9.67	13.13
Totals	138.85	160.61	177.66
Monthly average	11.57	13.39	14.80

(*Figure not available)

SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)
 Seasonal Average for whole of District—Tons/sq. Mile per month



DEPOSIT GAUGES—1965
DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)
Tons per square Mile

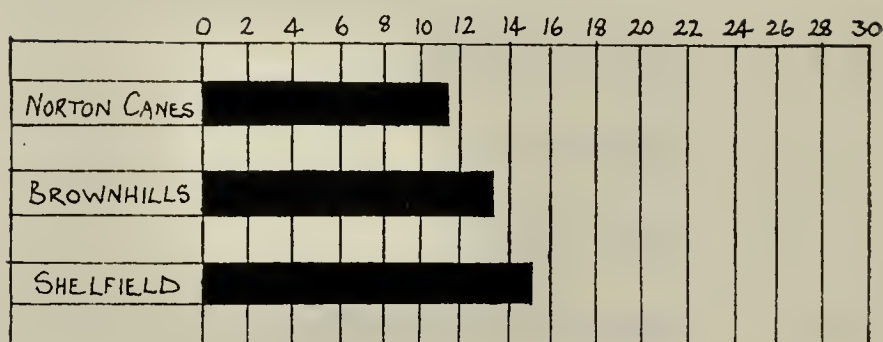
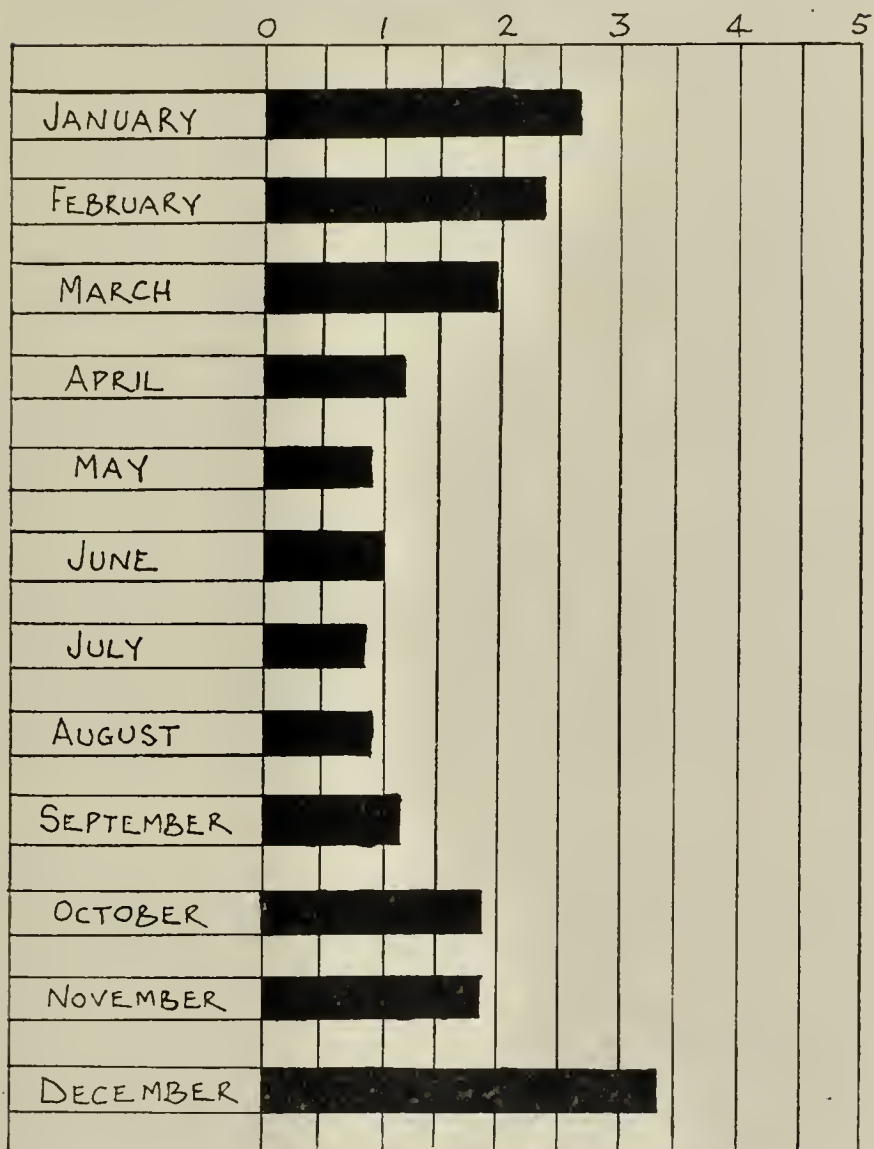


TABLE VI
LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

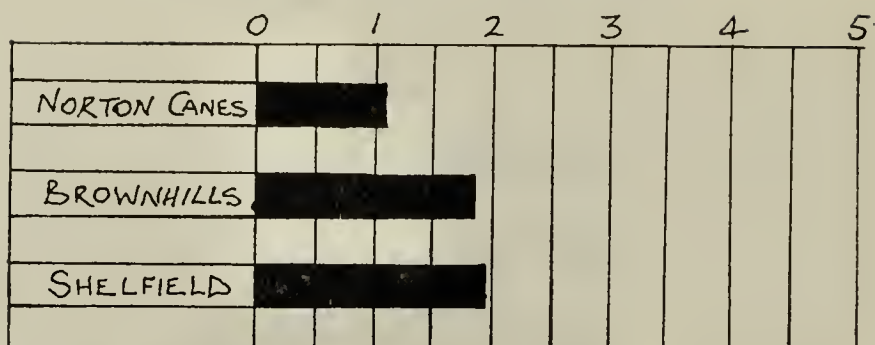
Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—
in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	1.60	4.03	2.34
February	1.62	2.88	2.61
March	2.32	1.63	1.98
April	0.98	1.28	1.36
May	0.68	0.80	1.14
June	0.91	1.21	0.92
July	0.46	1.04	0.98
August	0.38	1.10	1.15
September	0.70	1.52	1.40
October	1.13	2.08	1.97
November	1.11	1.95	2.09
December	1.19	2.97	5.99
Totals	13.08	22.49	23.93
Monthly average	1.09	1.87	1.94

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)—1965
 SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)
 M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)
M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



Shops Act, 1950

The Council are an authority under the Shops Act by reason of powers delegated by the Staffordshire County Council. Visits for the purpose of Shops Act work are frequently combined with those made under the terms of other legislation. There are a few shopkeepers who think nothing of breaking the law by selling all kinds of goods as and when they please. It is another thing to collect the necessary evidence sufficient to obtain a conviction.

During the year the Shops (Early Closing Days) Act, 1965 came into operation which allows shopkeepers to fix their own early closing day. This multiplicity of closing days will add to the difficulties of enforcement and it would appear that until entirely new legislation is forthcoming, the present unsatisfactory position will get worse.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The present year is the first full year in which this Act has been in operation. It is worth while reporting that in general most of the offices and shops inspected complied with the standards laid down in the Act, and what contraventions were detected were of a comparatively minor character.

Most occupiers of premises were eager to meet the requirements of the notices served upon them, but due to a variety of reasons there were often long delays before the notices were complied with.

During the last three months of 1965 a special effort was made to assess suitable and sufficient lighting of the premises inspected. Generally speaking the lighting in the selling areas in shops was satisfactory; in the packing areas the lighting was barely adequate. In the stockrooms it was poor, chiefly due to bad positioning of the lights and shortage of storage space causing the goods to be stacked in such a position as to obstruct the natural lighting. This was particularly noticeable at grocers and dealers in electrical goods where much of the stock is packed in large cartons or crates.

Where occupiers have asked for advice on lighting the standards laid down in the I.E.S. Code of recommendations for good interior lighting have been recommended.

During the month of November, 1965, 27 office premises were inspected, and the lighting in lumens per square foot measured at the working place was found to be :—

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| (a) | Less than 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 premises |
| (b) | More than 5 but less than 10 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 premises |
| (c) | More than 10 but less than 15 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 premises |
| (d) | More than 15 but less than 25 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 premises |
| (e) | More than 25 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 premises |

Of the shop premises inspected some 42% were lighted satisfactorily, i.e. 15 to 30 lumens, but in the stockrooms some 76% were below the recommended standard i.e. 20 lumens.

It was however noticeable that very few complaints about inadequate lighting were received.

Petroleum Act, 1928-1936

There are 42 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum and/or petroleum mixtures within the district, for which fees amounting to £46 10s. have been received during the year.

Every effort is made to ensure that all licensed premises are inspected at least annually, usually in co-operation with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Staffordshire County Council Fire Brigade, to ensure that the licence conditions are being observed.

Factories

The Council have indicated their progressive outlook by developing industrial sites. Overspill industry is being received as well as overspill population.

Close co-operation between the Engineer and Surveyor's department and our own has enabled many potential problems to be dealt with at the planning stage and so prevent difficulties occurring when the factories go into production.

It is interesting to note that in many cases where plans for the erection of small factories have been submitted the numbers of sanitary conveniences to be provided for the persons employed in the factory were based on the standards laid down in the Sanitary Conveniences Regulations, 1964, instead of the lower standards laid down in the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, and a much needed improvement would be achieved if the 1964 Regulations were made to apply to all factories.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	99	60	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	3	—	—
Total	108	70	—	—

Rodent Control

The Council provides a free service for private dwellings. Routine treatments of sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are carried out at regular intervals.

Treatments have been carried out as follows :—

		Rats	Mice	Total
Local Authority's Property ..	..	5	—	5
Dwelling houses .. ..	..	113	39	152
Business Premises .. ..	..	8	4	12
Total ..				169

Mortuary

The new mortuary has been completed and provides first class accommodation for this purpose. It is looked after by a part-time attendant. 73 bodies were received during the year.

CONCLUSION

I would like to express my thanks to the Council for their support and interest in the working of the department, and thank the officers of all other departments for their co-operation and assistance in matters of common interest.

Yours obediently,

R. H. MANN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

